

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF ACCOUNTS,

TO WHOM WAS REFERRED THE

ACCOUNT OF WM. J. B. ANDREWS,

THE

LATE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Printed by order of the House of Representatives, March 30, 1844.

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REPORT.

Mr. CONNOR, from the Committee of Accounts, to whom were referred two certain preambles and resolutions of the House of Representatives, instructing said committee to make inquiry for what purpose the item of \$4,980 22, inserted in the account of pay and mileage of members of the last Legislature, on page of the Journal 857, second volume, had been expended or appropriated; and further, to make report of the facts connected therewith to the House, made report:

That your committee, in pursuance of authority given, entered upon the discharge of their duty, and caused subpoenas to be issued and served upon such persons as would be most likely to afford information respecting this extraordinary item, which constituted the principal subject of the inquiry with which your committee were charged.— From the evidence herewith reported, it appears that a large bill was contracted upon credit with Dr. M'Pherson, during the last session, by Wm. J. B. Andrews, then Clerk of the House, and by other officers and members. From the evidence of Dr. M'Pherson, it appears that this bill consisted of candles, sealing wax, wafers, steel pens, snuff, segars, cammomile flowers, razors, washing soap, hair brushes, clothes brushes, shaving brushes, shaving soap, razor strops, penknives, ivory folders, tooth brushes, hat brushes, nail brushes, medicine, articles of jewelry, perfumery and canes.

From a copy furnished by this witness, the bill for the above articles amounted to \$2,690 26, and was kept by this witness in a most extraordinary manner, for any one who had any just pretensions to propriety in keeping his books of accounts. It is, indeed, on the face of it, covered with suspicion, and kept in a manner so irregular that it could not have been enforced in a court of justice. It is made up of lumping charges, under vague and general heads of "sundry merchandize," each charge amounting to large sums: some of them fifty dollars, some seventy dollars, and some one hundred and fifty dollars, and so on; so that it was only from the testimony of Dr. M'Pherson, that your committee could ascertain any information as to the kind of items that composed this account, charged to the House of Representatives, and respecting the persons who had been the recipients of that merchandize. Your committee will forbear comment upon the state of facts here disclosed in relation to this account, and leave them for the approval or condemnation of an impartial public. Thus much as to this account, which will be found from a careful examination of all the facts, to constitute a part of that large item respecting which your committee are on search.

This large item of \$4,980 22, it must be remembered was inserted in the account of the pay and mileage of members, under the head "Accounts due for receipts," on the 18th April, 1843; and that at this date the House had no power to draw a warrant on the Treasury, except for the pay and mileage of members. Still it appears from the warrants in the Auditor General's office, that on this date the Speaker of the House drew two warrants, one in favor of Dr. M'Pherson for \$1,868 94, and another in favor of Wm. J. B. Andrews for \$3,111 28. These sums added together, make up exactly the amount of the item \$4,980 22; and thus forces your committee to the conclusion, that these two warrants were thus drawn without authority of law, and against a positive enactment contained in the Act to reduce the expenses of the government; and that this course of illegal procedure had been resorted to by that Clerk, and others, to help themselves out of the difficulty in which they were placed in relation to the payment of this shameful account; and the wear and tear of reputation which threatened them into

its exposure to the judgment of honest men. The Chairman of the Committee of Accounts, Mr. Packer, who reported this account of pay and mileage of members, can give no satisfactory information respecting the insertion of this item into that account; and your committee are forced to the conclusion, that this item was inserted by Wm. J. B. Andrews without the knowledge of that committee. The evidence of Mr. Jack states it as his belief, that the insertion is in the hand writing of Wm. J. B. Andrews; while the whole of the report for pay and mileage of members, is in the hand writing of that witness. But this abuse of drawing warrants illegally upon the Treasury, does not stop here. On the same date with the warrants already referred to, three other warrants are drawn by the same Speaker, H. B. Wright, Esq., in favor of Wm. J. B. Andrews: one for \$2,000, one for \$3,607 30, and a third for \$2,500. The second of these warrants, although illegally drawn, has, for its mitigation, a resolution of the House authorizing the Speaker to draw the same; but the other two have not even this color of authority to mitigate the circumstances under which the same were drawn. It is impossible to review the conduct of these public officers in these transactions, without placing upon it the strongest brand of condemnation. These sums, thus drawn on the 18th April, 1843, added together make the sum of \$13,087 52—and from this sum deduct the amount of the warrant awarded by the House on that day for \$3,607 30, and there would still remain \$9,480 22, for which no account has been rendered, unless the warrant to Dr. M'Pherson, already referred to, should be allowed, amounting to \$1,868 94.

If this sum be deducted therefrom, it would still leave of the amount drawn upon that day, and unaccounted for, \$7,611 28. This examination, it will be perceived, does not embrace other sums of money drawn and disbursements made by Wm. J. B. Andrews as Clerk, during the sessions of 1842, 1843, and a part of the present session; but is confined to the account settled and the warrants drawn on the 18th April, 1843, when this item, which has been the principal subject of inquiry, is alleged to have found its way into the account of the pay and mileage of members; and beyond this your committee were not instructed to inquire.

A report, however, made upon this subject by a standing committee of the Senate, shows that the amount of the default of this officer is swelled to a still larger sum; taking into consideration the entire amount of his receipts from the Treasury, and the entire amount of his accounts, settled during his continuance in office. Your committee consider it of vital importance that all public officers should be held to a rigid accountability in the disbursement of public money, for upon this depends to a great extent the safety and purity of our free institutions; and therefore recommend that the Legislature will take prompt measures to secure an accurate adjustment of the defaults of this officer, and a speedy restoration of the money illegally drawn from an embarrassed Treasury.

Resolved, That the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee of Accounts met in the west room of the House of Representatives on Wednesday afternoon, the 24th January, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Connor, Cummings, Stine, Shaw, Bright and Ireland.
Wm. F. Ireland was appointed Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Connor, the following resolution was adopted, viz :

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to notify Wm. J. B. Andrews, Asa Packer and Hendrick B. Wright, to meet the Committee of Accounts to testify all they know in relation to an account on the Journal of the last session of the Legislature, Vol. II., page 857, amounting to \$4,980 22, on Tuesday, February 6, at three o'clock, in the Hall of the House of Representatives; and that they be furnished with a copy of the resolution of the House of Representatives, directing the Committee of Accounts to investigate said accounts.

On motion, the committee adjourned.

The Committee of Accounts met, February 6, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Chairman, Ireland, Shaw, Bright, Cummings and Connor.

ASA PACKER appeared before the committee, was sworn and examined, in relation to an account on the Journal of the House of Representatives, page 857, amounting to \$4,980 22.

Q.—You have read this preamble and resolution, which is here inserted, viz :

WHEREAS, There appears upon the second volume of the Journal of the House of Representatives, session 1843, and page 857, immediately under the Speaker's bill of daily pay and mileage, an account of \$4,980 22 cents, without any specific items for which it was expended. Therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee of Accounts are hereby instructed to inquire for what purpose, or to what use said sum has been expended or appropriated ; and that if said committee deem it necessary, they shall have power to send for persons and papers, and report as soon as practicable, the result to this House, by Bill or otherwise.

A.—Yes.

Q.—Please state, of your knowledge, if any, what items constitute that sum of \$4,980 22 ?

A.—From my recollection I cannot state one, but believe that newspapers were in that account; I have no recollection of any items; it was in a detailed account; the items were made out in detail, and carefully examined by the Committee of Accounts.

Q.—Do you recollect any thing of a bill of \$1,868 28 of Dr. M'Pherson's ?

A.—I don't.

Q.—Where are those bills now ?

A.—They were handed in with the report presented to the House ; I have no positive knowledge of any articles contained in the account. The accounts were carefully examined by the committee, as were all accounts by the committee, but have no knowledge of any items.

The Committee of Accounts met, February 28, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Ireland, Cummings, Bright and Connor.

The Chairman read the resolution of the House of Representatives, and stated to Dr. William C. M'Pherson, that he was called upon to state what he knew respecting an account in the second volume of Journal of the House of Representatives, page 857, and session of 1843, respecting an account of \$4,980 22.

WILLIAM C. M'PHERSON, affirmed.

Q.—What time was the warrant for \$1,868 28 drawn in your favor?

A.—In or about the 18th April, 1843.

Q.—Was this the only warrant you received upon the State Treasurer for articles furnished to Wm. J. B. Andrews, for the session of 1843?

A.—I received a warrant during the winter for five hundred dollars, balance in full for articles furnished at the prior session.

Q.—Please to furnish the committee with a copy of the bill, or a transcript from your books, of the articles you furnished to Mr. Andrews, contained in the account of \$1,868 28?

A.—I cannot furnish the items for the reason that they were not charged, that I was directed to charge them as sundry merchandise when they were got.

Q.—By whom were those directions given, that you were to charge them as sundry merchandise?

A.—By the Clerk, Mr. Andrews, and some members of the last Legislature.

Q.—Please to state to the committee, so as you know, or can recollect, what were the items furnished in that bill, and who were the persons that got them?

A.—I furnished candles, sealing wax, wafers, steel pens, snuff, camomile flowers, razors, washing soaps, hair brushes, clothes brushes, shaving brushes, shaving soap, razor strops, penknives, ivory folders, tooth brushes, hat brushes, nail brushes.

Q.—Did you furnish any medicine and charge the same in that account?

A.—There was some medicine charged.

Q.—Can you recollect any jewelry being furnished to the Clerk or members of the Legislature of 1843?

A.—I do recollect of having furnished articles of jewelry.

Q.—What were those articles of jewelry, and to whom were they furnished?

A.—They were got by the members.

Q.—Were they breast pins?

A.—They may have been.

Q.—Were they gold rings?

A.—There may have been gold rings; I am confident the amount of the jewelry was very small.

Q.—To whom were the articles furnished?

A.—They were furnished to several members of the Legislature.

Q.—Did you ever furnish any of the members with gold watches, or any member with a gold watch or gold chain of any kind, or spectacles?

A.—I never did.

Q.—To whom were the articles charged in the bill of \$1,868 28?

A.—To the House of Representatives.

Q.—And by whose order were they got?

A.—Some articles by order of the Clerk, others furnished to the Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper, sent by members of the Legislature, as they said; and others to members in person; sometimes I received written orders, and sometimes verbal.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of any members of the Legislature being furnished with gold watches or jewelry, by other persons?

A.—I have not.

Q.—Did you furnish any dressing cases for either House of the Legislature, or any of its members?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—State whether you had any general orders, either verbal or written, to furnish articles to members of the Legislature?

A.—I had.

Q.—Whether upon receiving this warrant it was filled up with the amount of \$1,868 28, or whether it was in blank, or filled up after you received it?

A.—It was filled up with the amount of \$1,868 28, at the time I received it.

Q.—Please to state whether those things were got by members generally, or by a particular number; and if the latter, please to state who they were, so far as you recollect?

A.—I will furnish the committee with a transcript of the whole account.

The Committee of Accounts met, February 29, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Ireland, Cummings, Stine and Connor.

HENDRICK B. WRIGHT, affirmed.

Q.—There is an item in second volume of the Journal of the House of Representatives, amounting to \$4,980 22, of the session of 1843, page of the Journal 857; please to say all you know about it, and what items composed that account?

A.—I do not know of one item in that account, or what it was made up of; my practice in drawing warrants on the Treasury, while Speaker of the House, was this: the Clerks in the transcribing room drew up the warrants, filled up the proper amounts, brought them to my desk and I signed them; this was the general rule during the session of 1843. The expenses of the House, of committees of investigation, of the daily pay and mileage of witnesses, and other incidental expenses, were paid out of the Treasury by the Speaker's warrant. I gave directions to the Clerks very frequently to be cautious in making out warrants, that they committed no mistakes, as they were almost invariably presented to me for my signature during the session of the House, and consequently, I had not the time to examine into the particulars myself. I have no recollection now of the two warrants that make up the sum of \$4,980 22, nor can I state of the numerous warrants drawn by me while Speaker, of what they consisted, or of what they were made up of; but this I know that I never directly or indirectly had, or received one farthing of the public money. I state this, because some of the public newspapers of the day have openly charged upon me the taking of money from the Treasury for my own purposes, which charge, under the solemnity of an oath, I declare to be false and unfounded. I do not in this speak of my pay as my per diem allowance as a member of the Legislature; nor do I know that any of the moneys, drawn from the Treasury by virtue of my warrant, ever went for any other purposes than the legitimate subject connected with the Legislature of the State; nor did I know of any arrangement by which any other person or persons were either to receive money out of those warrants, or articles of any kind that might have been purchased with it. It has also been stated by some of the scurrilous newspapers of the day, that I had received jewelry that was bought with the public funds; which charge, under the solemnity of an oath, I pronounce to be false. I never received jewelry while I was a member of the Legislature, or before, or since that time, that was purchased with the public money to my knowledge, during the three years that I was a member of the Legislature; nor do I know that any was purchased for any body else during the last session of the Legislature, and which had always been customary during my knowledge of legislation—the members were furnished certain articles by the Clerk, such as penknives, stationery, port folios, paper cutters, soap, and in some cases a hair brush, tooth brush, nail brush, and also in some cases a razor, brush and shaving box, sealing wax; in every case they furnished sealing wax.

Q.—Do you know or do you not know, of any person or persons who at any time received, directly or indirectly, the value of any money from any officer of the House

of Representatives of the session of 1843, other than such articles as you have already enumerated without any charge?

A.—In answer to the question, I state that I have already spoken of the articles usually furnished to members.

Q.—Please to state whether you signed any warrants, at any time after the adjournment of the last Legislature; if so, state whether they were blank in amount and filled up afterwards; also who they were drawn in favor of, and in consideration of what?

A.—It may be possible that I have signed warrants that were not filled up at the time, and I don't know that I can name a person in favor of whom any of those warrants were drawn. I had perfect confidence in the Clerks of the House; and as I have already stated, I frequently cautioned them to see that no errors were committed. I left Harrisburg the day after the adjournment, and signed no warrants after that. Nor do I know that any money was drawn from the Treasury for any but legal purposes, during the whole session.

Q.—You will please to state whether you have any knowledge of any warrants having been drawn on the Treasury, and signed by yourself as Speaker, without the authority of a resolution of the House?

A.—I have not; and if there should have been such warrant signed without the authority of a resolution, I did not know it.

Dr. M'PHERSON was recalled and examined.

Q.—Have you the account which you agreed to furnish the committee with yesterday?

A.—I have; and presented the same.

Q.—Have you been paid for all the articles you furnished the House of Representatives, by the orders of Mr. Andrews and members for the session of 1843?

A.—I have not; and there is a balance of \$482 01, due me.

Q.—Is this the manner in which the account was kept on your books?

A.—It is.

Q.—Do you generally keep your accounts in this manner?

A.—I do not; I was directed to keep it this way by the Clerk and some members of the House.

Q.—Do you recollect the names of the members who so directed you?

A.—I do not.

Q.—Please to name who the members were that received articles from you?

A.—I have kept no record, and therefore cannot furnish them.

Q.—Can you recollect the names of any of the members who received articles from you?

The question was objected to by Mr. Ireland.

And the question being put, was decided in the affirmative.

YEAS—Messrs. Long, Cummings, Bright, Connor and Stine—5.

NAY—Mr. Ireland—1.

On motion,

The committee adjourned.

The Committee of Accounts met, March 2, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Ireland, Cummings and Connor.

Dr. M'PHERSON's examination resumed.

The witness, holding a list in his hand of the yeas and nays of the members of House of Representatives, of the session of 1843, said:

A.—This is a list of the yeas and nays of 1843. I furnished every person on this list, with the exception of Mr. Craig, of Allegheny county. These articles were ordered by the Clerk.

Q.—What was the greatest amount you furnished to any one member of the House of Representatives, charged in this bill, now before the committee?

A.—I cannot possibly tell, because I did not keep separate accounts.

Q.—Did you furnish to any of the members gold or silver pencil cases?

A.—I cannot recollect having furnished either of those articles.

Q.—Please to state the articles of jewelry you furnished members?

A.—I cannot recollect any specific article.

Q.—Were segars furnished to all the members?

A.—No, not to all; but to some of the members.

Q.—As you have already stated, that you furnished each and every member of the late House of Representatives, except Mr. Craig, of Allegheny county, with articles, please state what those articles were specifically; and how do you know that you furnished members with those articles? Did you deliver them yourself to the members, or were they delivered or furnished by sending them by any other person, and were the members present at the time they were delivered?

A.—I furnished each member with a razor, a pot of shaving compound, shaving brush, hair brush, nail brush, washing soap. The only means I have of knowing that the articles were delivered is, that they were made up in separate packages for each member, directed and sent to their boarding houses.

Q.—What was the probable value of each package?

A.—It would be from \$4 00 to \$4 50, each package.

Q.—Did you send any other articles, charged as merchandize, to the rooms of members, and if so, what were they?

A.—I did. I sent some perfumery, but not to all; what other articles I cannot recollect.

Q.—Please to state the names of the persons employed as clerks in your store during the year 1843, and up to this time?

A.—Franklin Mehaffey and Samuel Stetley.

Q.—Did any of the members, in particular, draw largely on you for articles charged as merchandize?

A.—No.

Q.—State whether you furnished members with canes; if so, to whom?

A.—I did, but cannot recollect to whom they were furnished, nor have I any idea of their probable cost.

A motion was made by Mr. Ireland,

That the witness be discharged.

The yeas and nays were required by Mr. Connor and Mr. Cummings, and were as follow, viz:

YEAS—Mr. Long, Mr. Cummings and Mr. Ireland—3.

NAY—Mr. Connor—1.

Adjourned.

The Committee of Accounts met, March 9, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Cummings, Shaw and Connor.

Thomas G. Connor was appointed Secretary, *pro tem.*

Mr. Connor offered the following resolution, which was agreed to, viz:

Resolved, That the Chairman be directed to summon Franklin Mehaffey, to meet this committee on Monday, the 11th instant, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, in the East Committee room of the House of Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Connor, it was

Resolved, That when this committee adjourns, it will adjourn to meet on Monday, the 11th instant, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion,

The committee adjourned.

The Committee of Accounts met, March 11, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Cummings, Shaw and Connor.

Thomas G. Connor was appointed Secretary, *pro tem.*

FRANKLIN MEHAFFEY, affirmed and examined.

Question by Mr. Long.—Mr. Mehaffey do you recollect of certain packages being sent to the rooms of members of the last Legislature; if so, state what articles they contained, and by whom they were ordered?

A.—I recollect of having put them up, and sending them; they may have been hair brushes, shaving brushes, soap, sealing wax, candles, razors, razor strops; I was ordered to put them up by Dr. M'Pherson.

Question by Mr. Long.—Please to state whether any member or members received from Dr. M'Pherson, any other articles than those specified by you?

A.—They may have done so, but I cannot now recollect.

Question by Mr. Long.—Did any member or members receive any canes, gold or silver pencils, breast pins, gold watches, gold rings, gold watch chains, or seals, or keys, or perfumery, that are embraced in the account rendered by Dr. M'Pherson?

A.—They may have been with respect to canes. I have no doubt, there was; as to gold or silver pencils, there was not, I believe; I think there was no breast pins, no gold watches, no gold rings, to my knowledge; no gold watch seals or keys, to my knowledge; I believe there was some perfumery got.

Question by Mr. Long.—State also the names of members who got canes or perfumery, if you can recollect them?

A.—I have no recollection at present of any of the names of the members who received them.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Please to state whether any other persons, than members received any of the articles spoken of by you?

A.—Yes, the officers of the House received different things, at different times; for, I suppose the use of the House and members.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Did any of the officers of the House receive any of the articles spoken of by you, for their own use?

A.—I suppose they did.

Question by Mr. Long.—Did Speaker Wright receive any of the articles?

A.—Not to my knowledge; he may have received them.

Question by Mr. Connor.—What was the greatest amount any member got, of the articles furnished by Dr. M'Pherson?

A.—I have no recollection at present.

Question by Mr. Connor.—What was the number of packages furnished to members of the House of Representatives?

A.—I believe one hundred packages.

Question by Mr. Connor.—What was each package worth?

A.—I suppose from \$1 50 to \$5.

Question by Mr. Cummings.—How did it happen that Mr. Craig, of Allegheny, received no package?

A.—I suppose because there was none directed to him.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Do you know of any member receiving a box or boxes of spermaceti candles during the session of 1843?

A.—No, I do not.

Question by Mr. Cummings.—Have you any other knowledge of what could have contributed to make up Dr. M'Pherson's account of two thousand two hundred and odd dollars, for last session?

A.—None, except that of sealing wax, sperm candles and wafers.

On motion,

The committee adjourned.

The Committee of Accounts met, March 16, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Cummings, Shaw, Connor, Stine and Ireland.

The examination of FRANKLIN MEHAFFEY, was resumed.

Question by Mr. Connor.—The first charge dated January 3d, 1843, in the bill furnished to the committee, and charged \$28, as sundry merchandize; please to state what items compose that account?

A.—I have no knowledge at present of any items contained in that charge.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Please state whether there was articles of jewelry furnished to members, or any other person, and charged in the account of Dr. M'Pherson, as furnished to this committee?

A.—I have no knowledge at present.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Was there segars furnished to the members of the House of Representatives, contained in this account?

A.—I believe there was.

Question by Mr. Stine.—What amount of this bill is made up in segars, to the best of your knowledge?

A.—There may have been \$100, more or less.

Question by Mr. Stine—What quality of segars was generally furnished?

A.—The very best.

Question by Mr. Stine—Were segars sent to all the members, or to part of them only?

A.—I believe only to part of them.

Question by Mr. Stine—Did any members of the last session, who constitute part of this committee, receive any segars.

A.—Not to my knowledge.

On motion of Mr. Cummings,

The witness was discharged.

On motion,

The committee adjourned.

The Committee of Accounts met, March 18, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Cummings, Shaw and Connor.

Thomas G. Connor was appointed Secretary, *pro tem.*

Wm. JACK was sworn and examined.

Question by Mr. Cummings—There is an item of \$4,980 22, on the Journal of 1843, second volume; please to state what you know about it, how, and under what circumstances it got there, and for what expenditure it was made?

A.—I did not see that item until I saw it in the printed Journal; I cannot tell certainly how it got there, nor for what the expenditure was made.

Question by Mr. Connor—Do you know whether the account of \$4,980 22 passed the Committee of Accounts?

A.—I cannot tell; for I was not present at any of the meetings of the committee, at the time at which that report was made.

Question by Mr. Connor—Have you seen any warrants signed by Speaker Wright, in blank?

A.—I have seen such warrants.

Question by Mr. Connor—In whose possession did you see those warrants?

A.—In the hands of Wm. J. B. Andrews.

Question by Mr. Connor—Did you fill up any of those warrants?

A.—I filled up one of those warrants.

Question by Mr. Connor—You say you filled up one of those warrants; please to state the amount you filled it up with?

A.—I think it was two thousand dollars.

Question by Mr. Connor—Please to state the date at which you filled up the warrant?

A.—I believe it was on the 19th of April, 1843, the day after the adjournment of the Legislature.

Question by Mr. Connor—Who directed you to fill up the warrant?

A.—Wm. J. B. Andrews. I supposed, at the time he gave this direction, that the warrant, and the other blank warrants that I saw, were intended to cover a resolution which had passed the House the previous day, and which, in the confusion, had escaped my attention.

Question by Mr. Connor—Do you know of any other person having filled up blank warrants by directions of Mr. Andrews?

A.—I do not.

Question by Mr. Connor—Have you any knowledge of a warrant being drawn in favor of Dr. M'Pherson, for \$1,868 94?

A.—I have no knowledge of it.

Question by Mr. Connor—Have you any knowledge of any warrants being drawn by Speaker Wright, without the authority of the House of Representatives?

A.—I cannot tell whether the blank warrants were by authority of the House of Representatives, or not, for this reason, that I am not certain whether the item of \$4,980 22, received the sanction of the House. I have no recollection of seeing that item in the manuscript report of the Committee of Accounts, after that report had passed the House of Representatives.

Question by Mr. Connor—Do you know of any member of the House of Representatives receiving jewelry that was bought out of the public money?

A.—I do not.

Question by Mr. Long—State whether the warrant of two thousand dollars, as filled up by you, constituted any part of the \$4,980 22, found on the Journal of last session, page 857?

A.—I don't know whether it does or not.

On motion,

The committee adjourned.

The Committee of Accounts met, March 20, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Cummings, Stine, Bright, Shaw and Connor.

Thomas G. Connor was appointed Secretary, *pro tem.*

WILLIAM JACK was re-examined and made the following statement, *viz*:

When I testified before the committee on Monday, the 18th instant, I stated that but one warrant, dated April 18, was filled up by me, for Mr. Andrews; I have since made

an examination, and I find that there are two in my hand writing ; one for \$2,000, and the other for \$1,868 94 ; which are all the warrants I have filled up of that date.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Please to state how you were paid for your services for the session of 1843 ?

A.—By warrant on the Treasury, drawn in my favor by Speaker Wright.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Did you receive the money from the Treasurer yourself?

A.—Yes, sir.

Question by Mr. Connor.—In the warrant you filled up for the two thousand dollars, for what reason did you erase the words “*to be accounted for in the final settlement of his accounts?*”

A.—That warrant was drawn in the first place, as warrants were usually drawn under resolutions of the House, when no final settlement had been made by the Clerk. I supposed when that warrant was drawn that such a resolution had passed, and I filled it up accordingly ; I gave it to Mr. Andrews ; he afterwards came to me and requested me to strike out the words referred to.

Question by Mr. Long.—Did Wm. J. B. Andrews assign any reason for having these words erased ?

A.—He stated that he would be required under the Reform Bill, to file his accounts in the Auditor General’s office, or words to that effect. I thought it an extraordinary proceeding, but upon reflection I concluded that he would not dare to commit a fraud upon the Treasury, which could be so easily detected by comparing the Treasurer’s reports with the Journal of the House.

Question by Mr. Bright.—How did it happen that you was requested to fill up the two warrants, the one of \$2,000, and the other of \$1,868 94, dated on the 18th April, 1843, and not the other three warrants drawn on the same day, to wit : one of \$2,500, one of \$3,607 30, and one of \$3.111 28 ?

A.—It is impossible for me to assign the reason.

DAVID M. STEDMAN was sworn and examined.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Did you summons Wm. J. B. Andrews to meet this committee ?

A.—No, sir ; I never had a subpoena for him.

Question by Mr. Connor—Did you ever give him a verbal notice to attend this committee ?

A.—No, sir.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Do you know where Mr. Andrews is to be found ?

A.—I do not know where he is at the present time.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Do you know any thing of the item of \$4,980 22, on the Journal of the House of Representatives ?

A.—No, sir.

On motion, the committee adjourned.

The Committee of Accounts met, March 22, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Shaw, Cummings and Connor.

Thomas G. Connor was appointed Secretary, *pro tem.*

JOHN D. MILES was sworn and examined.

Question by Mr. Long.—Please to state your knowledge, if any, of an account of \$4,980.22, found upon page 857 of the Journal of last session ?

Answer.—I had never seen the account, until my attention was called to it this session, neither in manuscript or print. I left sometime during the fore part of the session of 1843, and did not return.

Question by Mr. Long.—Do you know any thing of a list of members’ pay and mileage, made out shortly before the adjournment of the last Legislature ?

A.—I only know of it from the fact, that Judge Packer asked me to get the report of the Committee of Accounts for pay and mileage of members, for the session of 1843.

Question by Mr. Long.—Have you the document?

A.—I have it. I now lay the same before the committee.

Question by Mr. Long.—Please to state whether the list of members' pay and mileage was ever before the Committee of Accounts, and was reported to the House by that committee?

A.—I have no knowledge of it whatever.

Question by Mr. Long.—In whose hand writing is that set opposite to the sum of \$4,980.22, on the aforesaid list?

A.—It looks to me like William J. B. Andrews' hand writing, but I could not say positively that it is.

Question by Mr. Long.—Did you ever see any warrants drawn on the State Treasury, signed by Speaker Wright, and not filled up; and do you know if Speaker Wright was in the habit of signing blank warrants?

A.—I never saw any warrants signed by Speaker Wright, either filled up or in blank.

Question by Mr. Long.—Have you any knowledge of any of the members or officers of the House drawing any stationery or other articles from Dr. M'Pherson; if so, state who were the members and who were the officers?

A.—I have no knowledge on the subject.

Question by Mr. Connor.—In whose hand writing is the list of pay and mileage made out in?

A.—It is in the hand writing of William Jaek.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Please to state the names of the persons employed by William J. B. Andrews, as transcribing clerks during the session of 1843?

A.—William Jack, John D. Miles, Benjamin Perry. Thomas J. Miles was employed in my place after I left.

DAVID M. STEDMAN was recalled and examined.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Did you receive any article from Dr. M'Pherson, for the members of the House of Representatives, during the session of 1843, and if so, state what they were?

A.—I do not recollect receiving but one article from Dr. M'Pherson for any member of the House, and that I was sent for by the Clerk of the House, and that was a razor strop.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Please to state the articles you got of Dr. M'Pherson for William J. B. Andrews, as near as you can?

A.—I got candles, sealing wax, soap, camomile flowers, wafers, hair brushes, hair combs for the use of the Hall, and I think two jars of snuff.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Do you know of any member receiving jewelry or any other articles that was paid for out of the public money?

A.—I do not.

On motion,

The committee adjourned, to meet at the call of the Chairman.

The Committee of Accounts met, March 23, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Cummings, Shaw and Connor.

Thomas G. Connor was appointed Secretary, *pro tem.*

THOMAS J. MILES was affirmed and examined.

Question by Mr. Long.—Do you know any thing about what items constitute the amount of \$4,980 22, found on the second volume of the Journal of the House of Representatives of the session of 1843?

A.—No, not the most remote idea.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Have you seen the manuscript list of the pay and mileage of the members of the session of 1843?

A.—I have seen it.

Question by Mr. Connor.—In whose hand writing is the list made out in?

A.—To the best of my knowledge William Jack's.

Question by Mr. Long.—Please to state in whose hand writing the words “accounts due for receipts,” as stated at the bottom of the list of members’ pay and mileage for the last session are?

A.—I do not recognize it as a hand that I am familiar with.

Question by Mr. Long.—Were you in the habit of filling up blank warrants drawn on the Treasurer, and signed by Speaker Wright, during the time that you were acting as transcribing clerk?

A.—No, sir.

Question by Mr. Long.—Do you know of any other person having filled up blank warrants?

A.—No, sir.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Do you know of any of the members of the House of Representatives, of the session of 1843, receiving any articles of jewelry, cutlery, or stationery from Dr. M'Pherson?

A.—No, sir; I do not.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Do you know of any of the members of the House of Representatives, and officers of the House, receiving jewelry or cutlery from Wm. J. B. Andrews?

A.—I know of his having given cutlery to some of the officers of the House, and that was pen knives; I know of no jewelry having been given.

Question by Mr. Long.—State whether any of the members of the last Legislature got a copy or copies of Purdon’s Digest, that were not returned to the House of Representatives, at the end of the session?

A.—I know that some of the members received copies of Purdon’s Digest in their individual capacities of chairman of their respective committees; but I am unable to state whether or not they were returned to the House.

On motion,

The witness was discharged.

On motion,

The committee adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman.

The Committee of Accounts met, March 25, 1844.

Present—Messrs. Long, Stine, Shaw, Ireland, Connor and Cummings.

Thomas G. Connor, was appointed Secretary, *pro tem.*

Wm. JACK was re-called and examined, and showed a list of the pay and mileage of the members of the House of Representatives, for the session of 1843.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Is this the original list of the pay and mileage of members of the last session?

A.—It is, and is in my hand writing. It was made out by me, and handed over to the Committee of Accounts to be passed upon by that committee.

Question by Mr. Connor.—In whose hand writing are the words, “Accounts due for receipts,” as stated at the bottom of the list of members’ pay and mileage, for the last session?

A.—I believe those words to be in the hand writing of Wm. J. B. Andrews.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Were those words on the list when you handed it over to the Committee of Accounts?

A.—They were not.

On motion,

The witness was discharged.

DAVID B. LONG, was affirmed and examined.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Was you a member of the Committee of Accounts last session?

A.—I was, and Secretary to that committee.

Question by Mr. Connor.—Do you know whether this manuscript list of the pay and mileage was before the committee, and passed by them?

A.—If it was, I have no recollection of it.

Question by Mr. Connor—Do you know whether the item of \$4,980 22, at the foot of the list, and to be found in second volume of the Journal of the House of Representatives, page 857, was examined, and passed the Committee of Accounts?

A.—I have no knowledge of it being before the Committee of Accounts, whatever; and that the first intimation I had of it, I saw it in one of the newspapers of the day. I think it was published in a paper called the Commonwealth.

Question by Mr. Connor—What amount of security did Wm. J. B. Andrews give, for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in him for the session of 1843?

A.—I think the first bond was for ten thousand dollars, which was given previous to the passage of the Reform Bill.

Question by Mr. Connor—Do you know who were the securities of Wm. J. B. Andrews, for the year 1843, on the first bond?

A.—George M'Cullough, D. B. Long, and Mr. Cummings of Philadelphia.

Question by Mr. Connor—Do you know of any member of the House receiving jewelry from Wm. J. B. Andrews, or Dr. M'Pherson?

A.—I do not.

Question by Mr. Connor—Have you any knowledge of receiving one of those hundred packages, as alleged to have been furnished to the members, as charged in Dr. M'Pherson's account of 1843, or any other articles?

A.—I found in my room on entering it late one night, a package marked with my name, containing one razor, one box shaving compound, one shaving brush, one hair brush, one nail brush, two cakes of soap. I have no knowledge by what means they came there, or from where they came. I never was in Dr. M'Pherson's store, nor had any acquaintance with him until I came to Harrisburg this session.

Question by Mr. Connor—Please to state the value of the articles contained in the package spoken of?

A.—I would say that \$3.25 would be a fair price for them.

Question by Mr. Connor—Have you any knowledge of the \$4,980 22 having been authorized by a resolution of the House of Representatives?

A.—I have not.

On motion,

The examination was closed, and the committee adjourned.